

# SPEAKING OF CHAMPIONS ...

## Champions Club

# Welcome, 2007!

What happened to 2006?

The year was here one moment, then gone the next.

Are we really ready to purchase a 2007 calendar?

Ready or not for '07, the Champions Club, which celebrated its sixth birthday in December, looks for continued success and steady growth in its league play, tournaments and clinics.

And why shouldn't Champions expect bigger and better things?



**The Champions Club, not a pot of gold, found at the end of this rainbow following a late summer storm**

"I think the Champions Club is the finest public tennis facility I've ever seen in

the United States. The layout, design and amenities are player-friendly and the scenic beauty is outstanding," praises Murfreesboro attorney Frank Fly.

Fly, representing the Murfreesboro Tennis Association, toured Champions as his rapidly-growing city proposes

building a public tennis facility.

"We looked at the Champions Club as a model for what

(Continued On Page 3)

**Volume 7, Issue 1**

**January-March 2007**



**PARKS AND RECREATION**



### **Never Too Early!**

While warmer days are just around the corner, it's never too early to start thinking about the 2007 Champions Club Spring Leagues, which are tentatively scheduled to start the week of March 26.

If you wish to be included on the mailing list, contact Eddie Baker at 870-4407.

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<b>Do You Know? ... Pat Farnsley</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Do You Know? ... Gina Self</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Pullen, Jordan Junior Players Of Month</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Welcome, 2007! Continued From Page 1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>A Champions Tip ... From Orlando Lourenco</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Club's 'Odd Couple' Snatches Fall Crown</b>	<b>4</b>



"When I was 40, my doctor advised me that a man in his 40s shouldn't play tennis. I heeded his advice carefully and could hardly wait until I reached 50 to start again."  
— **Hugo L. Black, Supreme Court Justice from 1937-71**

## Do You Know? ... **Pat Farnsley**

**P**at Farnsley didn't begin playing tennis regularly until 15 years ago or so, but the 50 year old has turned the Champions Club into his second home and used the club's league postseason playoffs to routinely add to his trophy collection.

Farnsley is among Champions' most frequent men's singles league champions, winning titles in the Men's 3.5 and 4.0 divisions.

In fact, he recalls a 4.0 match for the 2004 Fall League crown against Czech Republic-born Marek Opustil as his most memorable experience at Champions.

"It was the final and I was behind the entire time until pulling ahead in the third set tie-break (for a 3-6, 6-4, 10-8 escape)," he says.

When not on the tennis court, Farnsley is employed by Suntrust Bank (main office) in the Trust Investment Department and claims his other hobbies are golfing, canoeing and snow skiing.

He and wife Linda have been married for 25 years and the couple has three children — Sarah, Reed and Kyle.

One thing Farnsley claims few people know

about him is that he's "a card-carrying, pistol-packing member of the National Rifle Association (NRA)."

Pat didn't play tennis in high school, but played with a couple of guys who did. Apparently, it stirred an interest, although he didn't pick up the game until moving to Chattanooga from Mississippi in 1995.

"I never really played any CTA or on any team until we moved to Chattanooga. And I didn't begin playing regularly until my basketball days stopped 10 years ago," Farnsley points out.

He proved to be a true competitor on the court, willing to grind out point after point with consistency and pin-point accuracy on his ground strokes. And Pat can play doubles, as well.

It was only in November at the Champions Club when Farnsley helped guide a David Snyder-captained team to the District (Tennessee) Men's 7.5 combo doubles crown.

The team will represent the Volunteer State in the Sectional Championships scheduled in Baton Rouge, La., in January.



**Pat Farnsley**

## Do You Know? ... **Gina Self**

**W**ith a husband (Tom), five children, a daughter-in-law, two dogs, one cat, one snake and "a partridge in a pear tree," she jokes, how does orthopedic practitioner Gina Self find time to play tennis?

And win numerous Champions Club league championships?

"I have always enjoyed tennis," states the 46-year-old Director of Clinical Operations at Plaza Orthopaedics. "I remember watching Wimbledon and the U.S. Open as a child, but I began playing with my children when they were young."

Gina routinely participates in singles, doubles and mixed doubles leagues at Champions, and has carted home championship trophies for 3.5 and 4.0 singles leagues, as well as a runner-up award for 6.0-6.5 mixed doubles league crown. She recently captured the 4.0 title for the fall league.

Something that few people may know about Self,

she says, is that "I sustained a traumatic brain injury and am proof-positive of miracles and the grace of God. Rehab was a group effort — my children took over where the therapists left off ..."

Gina explains that her other interests outside of tennis are anything her children participate in.

Gina did have to laugh when recalling a mixed doubles league at Champions she played with her son, Alec.

"(During a match) he planted his foot and twisted abruptly," Gina remembers. "And Alex said, 'Mom, I just broke my leg.' I told him how remote that possibility was (bones are my business!)."

"He insisted, however, so to humor him I called my X-ray tech to meet at my office for an X-ray. Alex now feels competent to have my job! He spent six weeks in a cast."

One mistake on the tennis court at Champions. Gina Self's opponents should be so fortunate.



**Gina Self**



"The serve was invented so that the net could play."

— Comedian Bill Cosby

## PULLEN, JORDAN JUNIOR PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

### Jake Pullen

**Age/Birthday/Zodiac Sign:** 13/March 18/Pisces

**School/Grade:** Cleveland Middle School/8th

**Favorite Subject:** Science

**Favorite Restaurant/Food:** Moe's/ Nachos

**Favorite Movie:** Big Mama's House Party 2

**Favorite Type of Music/Favorite Music Artist:** Country/Rascal Flatts

**Hobbies Outside Of Tennis:** Baseball

**Who Introduced You To Tennis?** Tony Cavett (Cleveland Country Club)

**Began Playing Tennis:** Two years ago

**Favorite Shot:** Backhand

**Favorite Pro Players:** Roger Federer (male), Maria Sharapova (female)

**Tennis Racquet You Use:** Tecnifibre

**Best Tennis Memory/Highlight:** "It was placing second in a tournament (Boys' 14s) at the Cleveland County Club."

**Tony Cavett (Cleveland Country Club teaching pro) on Jake:** "Jake is a very coachable young man because he has a genuine love for the game. He is always interested in what it takes to be a better player and is very open to advice. He has great family support and his dad is always a very willing sparring partner for him."



Jake Pullen

### Catherine Jordan

**Age/Birthday/Zodiac Sign:** 14/ December 11/Sagittarius

**School/Grade:** Cleveland Middle School/8th

**Favorite Subject:** English

**Favorite Restaurant/Food:** Kanpai of Tokyo/Chicken

**Favorite Movie:** Sweet Home Alabama

**Favorite Type of Music/Favorite Musical Artist:** Country & Christian/none



Catherine Jordan

**Hobbies Outside Of Tennis:** Church, piano, friends and family

**Who Introduced You To Tennis?** Tony Cavett (Cleveland Country Club)

**Began Playing Tennis:** Four years ago

**Favorite Shot:** Forehand

**Favorite Pro Players:** Roger Federer (male), Maria Sharapova (female)

**Tennis Racquet You Use:** Gamma

**Best Tennis Memory/Highlight:** "It was winning first place (Girls' 16s) at the Cedar Bluff tournament (in Knoxville)."

**Tony Cavett (Cleveland Country Club teaching pro) on Catherine:** "Catherine is a very wise player and always seems to play within herself. She knows the shots that she is able to hit in certain situations and usually makes good choices. Her family support is very strong and they give her every opportunity to be successful both on and off the court."

## Welcome, 2007!

(Continued From Page 1)

we're hoping will come to our city, although we certainly do not expect to equal what's been done at Champions," Fly adds. "I think the Champions Club should be a model for anyone building or dreaming about building a tennis facility."

At Champions, 2006 saw the leagues' participation grow during each session — spring (191), summer (203) and fall (220).

Furthermore, USTA adult leagues, colleges, high school, middle schools and the residents took advantage of the 20-court City of Chattanooga facility.



Will snow return for the winter of '07 at the Champions Club?



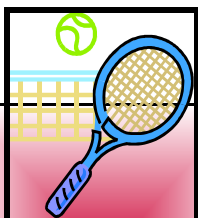
## Champions Club

**Address:**  
1096 Lupton Drive  
Lupton City, TN 37351

**Phone:**  
(423) 870-3112

**Fax:**  
(423) 870-4224

**Email:**  
baker\_eddie@mail.  
chattanooga.gov



**Discover the  
Champion  
in yourself!**

We're on the web:  
[www.chattanooga.gov/  
PRAC/30\\_257.htm](http://www.chattanooga.gov/PRAC/30_257.htm)

## A Champions Tip ...

**From Orlando Lourenco**

Champions Club, Director of Tennis



## Prioritizing The Development Of Your Game



- **Consistency:** First and foremost, get the ball in play. Do not beat yourself, but force your opponent to hit the risky shot.
- **Depth:** When you can keep the ball in play consistently, shift your focus to keeping the ball "deep consistently." Make it tougher on your opponent to attack you.
- **Direction:** Now that you can keep the ball deep consistently, isolate your opponents' weaknesses by working on better direction.
- **Spin:** Compliment the skills you have learned by adding different spins to your weapons. Spins can increase your consistency, depth and direction while simultaneously isolating opponents' weaknesses.
- **Speed:** Do all of the above with greater speed or pace and "you're ready for the pros."

## 'Odd Couple' Reid-Chandler Grabs Title

You could call Jack Reid and Tom Chandler the "Odd Couple" when it comes to men's doubles in the Champions Club leagues.

However, you must call them the champions of the 7.0-7.5 doubles league for the 2006 Fall session.

Seeded second in the playoffs, Reid and Chandler had lost their only match to the top-seeded, unbeaten duo of David Snyder and Bob Moore. And it had been a regular-season blowout, 6-3, 6-0.

Given a second chance with the playoff crown on the line, Reid and Chandler battled from a one-sided, opening-set loss to grab the championship, 1-6, 6-3 (10-3 match tie-break).

"I don't mind that (Odd Couple) 'tag.' I'd

even go as far as to say I agree with it," says Reid, who will celebrate his 70th birthday on Feb. 15.

Jack is 5-foot-11, 225 pounds and has gone through six surgeries (prostate, open heart, aneurysm, hernia, two stints for the heart) over the past nine years. Tom stands 6-foot-3, turns 47 in January and is deceptively quick for his size.

"I knew we could beat them, but I didn't know if we would do it. But Jack started taking returns and chipping, then going to the net every point, and I would chase down everything else. If you want to get in shape, or stay in shape, you play with Jack," laughs Chandler.

"Tom never quits. Never quits," Reid points

out. "I think we just upped our game, got a few breaks and things went our way at the end."

Snyder and Moore had taken 14 straight sets and won 84 of 111 games heading into the final.

Also in the 220-player league, champions were John Dorris Jr. (Men's 3.0 singles), John and Josh Blake (Men's 6.0-6.5 doubles), Gina Self (Women's 4.0 singles), Janet Lawrence-Betty Curry (Women's 6.0-6.5 doubles), and Kathy Stahl-Gary Wilson (Mixed 6.0-6.5 doubles).

Eight league playoffs were still battling heading into 2007, including the 27-player Men's 4.0 and 24-player Men's 3.5 singles divisions.